



**CALIFORNIA  
ASSOCIATION OF  
FOOD BANKS**

# SUPPLEMENTAL NUTRITION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (SNAP) **BRINGS FOOD & JOBS TO CA-16**



Recent successful Congressional interventions have underscored SNAP as our nation’s largest and most important anti-hunger program. Now, the end of Emergency Allotments has created an unprecedented hunger cliff that requires urgent action to support the District.

Several temporary SNAP improvements mitigated food insecurity during the COVID-19 crisis, but have now ended. This has resulted in a significant hunger cliff on a scale never seen before: we are facing a monthly loss of \$500 million statewide — with an average monthly loss of \$82 for each of the 5 million Californians who rely on SNAP to eat.

SNAP (CalFresh) provides nine meals to every one provided by food banks — a gap that private charity could never fill.<sup>1</sup>



Yet, because SNAP benefits are inadequate, nearly three in 10 SNAP households still rely on food banks.<sup>2</sup>

## The Value of SNAP

SNAP is crucial to the local economy. Last year, 33,000 participants — 5% of the District — received SNAP, ranking #52 in California.<sup>3</sup>

**SNAP delivered to the District:**<sup>4,5,6</sup>



SNAP benefits are spent in and generate this economic stimulus at 24,746 authorized EBT retailers across California.<sup>7</sup>

**We call on the CA Congressional Delegation to take decisive action to address the hunger cliff: improve SNAP benefit adequacy and provide equitable access for all low-income Californians.**

# SNAP Benefits are Vital but Inadequate

This year, SNAP will help over 5 million Californians fight hunger and escape poverty, but the benefits stop short of what is really needed.<sup>8</sup> **In California:**<sup>9,10,11,12</sup>



**\$2.15**

Allocated per person per meal, after end of Emergency Allotments



**3 IN 10**

Rely on supplemental food from food banks



**\$82**

Loss in SNAP, per person per month, after end of Emergency Allotments



**27%**

Increase in nutrition-related hospitalization risk at month's end

## Historic Hunger

Right now, Californians are facing historic and devastating levels of hunger.

**8.4 Million**

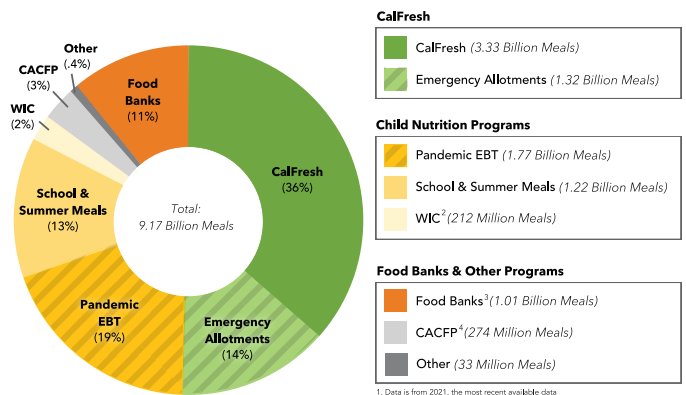
Californians are food insecure. That's more than one in five households (22%), which is more than double pre-pandemic levels (10%).<sup>13,14</sup>

**Deep Disparities**

Compared to White households (17%), food insecurity is far higher among Black (32%) and Latinx (28%) households.<sup>15</sup>

## Unprecedented Harm<sup>16</sup>

Food Assistance Sources for Californians in 2021<sup>1</sup>



1. Data is from 2021; the most recent available data.  
2. The Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children.  
3. Food banks, pantries, and other charitable food assistance programs.  
4. The Child and Adult Care Food Program.

## Impact of SNAP

*"When you eat healthy fruits and vegetables your health soars. When you can have food and know you're going to have food, your mental well-being soars. But if you are living with constant anxiety or when you go to sleep, you think 'I have to pay this medical bill' or whatever. People need to have access to SNAP."*<sup>17</sup>

**California food banks urge members of Congress to fight the hunger cliff: fully leverage SNAP's proven record as our nation's most important anti-hunger program in the 2023 Farm Bill and any legislative vehicle in this Congress.**



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